

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05714 200858Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 /167 W

-----111731 210233Z /75

R 200510Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3848

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5714

TOKYO FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, AS, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE-AUSTRALIAN FISHING NEGOTIATIONS TO START

JULY 26

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT JAPANESE-AUSTRALIAN FISHING DISCUSSIONS WILL COMMENCE WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 AND RUN THROUGH JULY 28 IN CANBERRA AND THAT JAPANESE DELEGATION TO BE LED BY KUNIO YONEZANA, WHO LISTED AS COUNCILLOR IN AGRICULTURE MINISTRY. PRESS REPORT FURTHER INDICATED THAT PURPOSE OF TALKS WAS TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR JAPANESE FISHERMEN TO FISH IN AUSTRALIAN 200 MILE FISHING ZONE. JAPAN
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PAGE 02 CANBER 05714 200858Z

HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CATCHING UP TO 18,000 TONNES OF FISH PER YEAR (MOSTLY LONG LINED TUNA) IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS.

2. PAT RYAN, ACTING FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, FISHERIES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY, CONFIRMED VISIT OF JAPANESE DELEGATION BUT SAID TALKS COULD ONLY BE PRELIMINARY PENDING PASSAGE BY SENATE WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES OF

AUSTRALIAN 200 MILE LEGISLATION. RYAN SAID FORTHCOMING TALKS WOULD BE LARGELY TECHNICAL AND WOULD BE LARGELY AIMED AT SOLVING TUNA SITUATION, WHICH IN RYAN'S WORDS "IS IN A BLOODY MESS". RYAN SAID THAT WHILE HE DOUBTED WHETHER TIME WOULD PERMIT DISCUSSIONS ON JAPANESE FISHING IN 200 MILE ZONE, IF TIME DID PERMIT IT, GAO MIGHT SHOW THEM A SUGGESTED TEXT FOR AN AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH ONE CERTAINLY WOULD AND COULD NOT BE SIGNED AT THIS TIME.

3. COMMENT: RYAN SAID THAT THESE WERE VERY BUSY TIMES INDEED FOR THE FISHERIES DIVISION, WHAT WITH VISITS FROM THE JAPANESE, THE RUSSIANS, THE KOREANS, AND THE TAIWANESE (TAIPEI 4559). HE SAID THAT IT WAS RATHER A PITY THAT SENATE WAS NOT ABLE TO ACT ON 200 MILE LEGISLATION BEFORE GOING INTO RECESS LAST JUNE, AS IT WOULD HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO GIVE A MORE SHARP FOCUS TO THE CURRENT SPATE OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE FULLY EXPECTS THAT LEGISLATION WILL HAVE BEEN PASSED BY SENATE AND GIVEN ROYAL ASSENT BY THE END OF AUGUST, AS THE SENATE NOT OVERLY ACTIVE ON BUDGET MATTERS DURING EARLY DAYS OF CURRENT SESSION WHICH BEGINS ON AUGUST 15 AND CAN THUS DEVOTE FULL ATTENTION TO 200 MILE LEGISLATION. RYAN SAID THAT BILL FAILED TO PASS IN SENATE DURING LAST SESSION NOT BECAUSE OF ANY OPPOSITION TO BILL, BUT RATHER BECUASE TIME RAN OUT IN FACE OF EXTENSIVE LIST OF OTHER BILLS, WHICH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED HAD HIGHER PRIORITY.

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PAGE 03 CANBER 05714 200858Z

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